© February 2025 | IJIRT | Volume 11 Issue 9 | ISSN: 2349-6002

Solar-Based Induction Water Heating System

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***Abstract*—With the rising demand for clean and sustainable energy, alternative solutions for daily energy needs, such as water heating, are crucial. This research focuses on a solar-based induction water heating system that harnesses solar energy for efficient water heating using induction technology. Unlike conventional solar thermal systems, this design leverages photovoltaic (PV) panels and electromagnetic induction to improve energy utilization and ensure efficient heating, even under fluctuating weather conditions. The system's architecture, energy conversion mechanisms, performance metrics, and comparative advantages are thoroughly analyzed, supported by simulation data and theoretical modeling.**

I. INTRODUCTION

Water heating is an essential part of residential, commercial, and industrial energy consumption, significantly contributing to global energy demand. Traditional water heaters, often powered by fossil fuels or electrical resistive elements, are not only energy-intensive but also environmentally unsustainable. Solar thermal water heaters, while effective, have efficiency limitations in areas with variable sunlight and often require large thermal collectors.

In this study, we propose a solar-based induction water heating system, which innovatively integrates photovoltaic energy harvesting with an electromagnetic induction heating mechanism. This approach combines the renewable and abundant nature of solar energy with the high-efficiency characteristics of induction heating, making it suitable for both residential and industrial applications.

System Overview

The solar-based induction water heating system consists of four main components:

1. Photovoltaic (PV) Panels: Solar panels are the primary source of electrical energy. They convert sunlight into direct current (DC) electricity, which can be used immediately or stored for later use.
2. Battery Storage Unit: A high-capacity battery stores excess energy generated during peak sunlight hours, ensuring uninterrupted operation during cloudy conditions or nighttime.
3. DC-AC Inverter: This component converts the DC output from the PV panels and batteries into alternating current (AC), which is required by the induction heating unit.
4. Induction Heater: The core heating element uses electromagnetic induction to heat water efficiently. The heater's coil generates a magnetic field that induces currents in the metal container holding the water, rapidly increasing the temperature.

A schematic representation of the system is illustrated

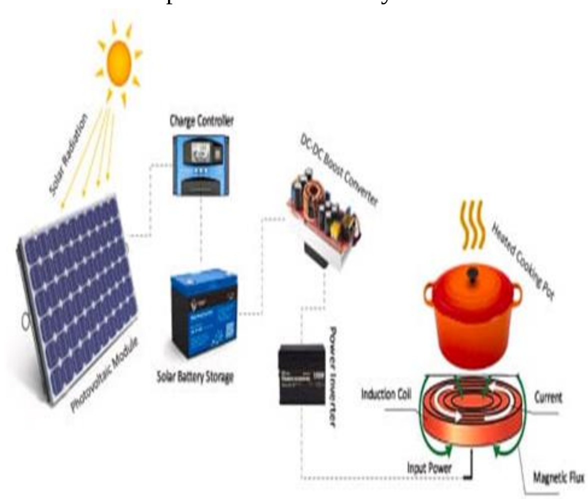

Fig. Solar based induction cooking system

II.METHODOLOGY

A. Photovoltaic System Design

The design of the PV system is crucial to meeting the energy demands of the induction heater. The power output from the solar panels, , is calculated as:

$$P_{PV} = A \times \eta \times G$$

is the surface area of the PV panel,
represents the panel efficiency (typically 15-20% for commercial PV panels),
is the average solar irradiance in watts per square meter (W/m²).
The geographical location and solar irradiance patterns are considered to optimize the size and orientation of the PV panels.

B. Energy Storage Requirements
The energy storage system ensures continuous operation, especially when solar energy is unavailable. The battery capacity is determined by:

$$C = \frac{P_{heater} \times T_{usage}}{\eta_{battery}}$$

is the rated power of the induction heater,
is the expected operating time,
is the storage efficiency, typically 80-90% for modern lithium-ion batteries.
Battery management systems (BMS) are employed to monitor and regulate charging, protecting the batteries from overcharging and deep discharging.

C. Induction Heating Mechanism
Induction heating operates on the principles of electromagnetic induction, where an alternating current in a coil generates a time-varying magnetic field. This field induces eddy currents in the metal container, causing it to heat up. The induced currents and the subsequent heat generation are described by Faraday's law and Joule's law, respectively.The efficiency of the induction heating process depends on the material properties of the container, the frequency of the AC supply, and the design of the induction coil.Induction heating is preferred over traditional resistive heating due to:Rapid Heating: It heats water faster by transferring energy directly to the container. Energy Efficiency: Minimizes energy losses, achieving efficiencies up to 90%.Safety: There is no open flame, reducing fire hazards.

III. STCTURAL COMPONENTS OF SOLAR BASED INDUCTION WATER HEATER SYSTEM

1. Induction cooker
2. Solar Panel
3. Battery
4. PIC Controller
5. Induction Coil
6. Charge Control Unit
7. PAN(LD)

IV. APPLICATION

1. It reduces energy waste.
2. It improves safety.
3. It be cost effective.
4. It saves money on electricity bills.
5. It helps the environment.

V. EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS

The proposed system was modeled using MATLAB/Simulink to evaluate its performance under varying solar conditions. The simulation parameters were based on real-world data from a location with average daily solar irradiance of 5.5 kWh/m².

A. System Efficiency
The overall system efficiency was found to be approximately 85%, considering energy losses in the inverter and battery storage. The efficiency of the induction heater alone was measured at 90%, outperforming traditional resistive heaters, which typically achieve 60-70% efficiency.

B. Heating Time Analysis
The time required to heat 10 liters of water from 25°C to 60°C was reduced by 30% compared to conventional resistive heaters. The system maintained stable performance even under partial shading, thanks to the energy storage component.

C. Comparative Study
A detailed comparison between the proposed system and a traditional resistive water heater is presented in Table I.

Criteria	Proposed System	Traditional Resistive Water Heater
Efficiency	Higher energy efficiency	Lower energy efficiency
Operating Cost	Lower due to energy savings	Higher due to electricity consumption
Environmental Impact	Reduced carbon footprint	Higher carbon footprint
Heating Speed	Faster heating depending on technology	Moderate heating time
Maintenance	Lower maintenance requirements	Regular maintenance needed
Initial Cost	Higher initial investment	Lower initial cost
Lifespan	Longer lifespan	Moderate lifespan

VI. DESIGN IF PROJECT

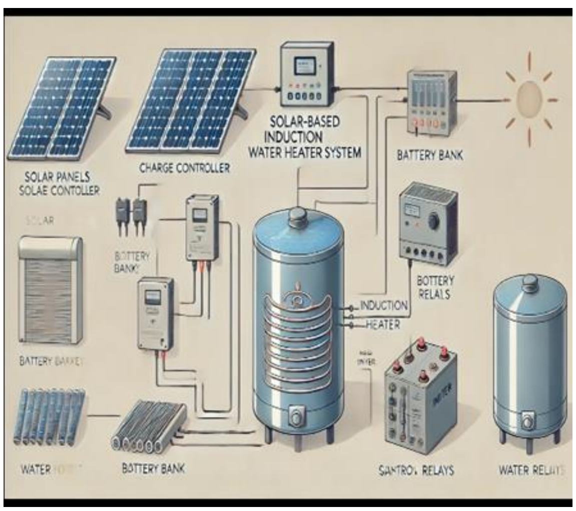

Fig. Solar based induction water heating system

VII. CONCLUSION

The solar-based induction water heating system demonstrates a viable and efficient alternative to conventional water heating methods. By utilizing solar energy and high-efficiency induction technology, the system reduces energy consumption and environmental impact. Future work will focus on enhancing energy management algorithms and exploring the feasibility of integrating advanced energy storage technologies, such as supercapacitors, to further improve performance.

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